

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SCCT-01 OMB-01 IO-10 /072 W
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R 101218Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4200

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5308

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PO

SUBJECT: MADEIRAN INDEPENDENCE

SUMMARY: SEPARATIST ACTIVITY IS CREATING TENSE CLIMATE ON
MADEIRA. LISBON PRESS COVERAGE OF SITUATION IS EXTENSIVE.
END SUMMARY.

1. SEPARATIST ACTIVITY CONTINUES ON MADEIRA. RECENTLY
REPORTED INCIDENTS INCLUDE:
-- CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN FAR LEFT AND SEPARATISTS; ON
SEPTEMBER 4 AND 6 SEPARATIST-LED CROWD CLASHED IN THE TOWN OF
MACHICO WITH MEMBERS OF UNION OF MADEIRAN PEOPLE (UNIAO DO
POVO DA MADEIRA - UPM), A FAR LEFT GROUP ASSOCIATED WITH UDP.
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INCIDENT FOLLOWED REMOVAL BY MADEIRAN CIVIL GOVERNOR OF PRESIDENT

OF MACHICO CAMARA MUNICIPAL, A UPM ADHERENT, WHO HAD SUBJECTED FIVE YOUTHS CAUGHT PAINTING PRO-SEPARATIST PROPAGANDA TO TRIAL BY "POPULAR JUSTICE." CONFRONTATIONS, WERE FINALLY BORKEN UP BY MILITARY POLICE USING TEAR GAS, LEFT SIX WOUNDED.

-- MILITARY GOVERNOR ATTACKED: UPM RELEASED COMMUNIQUE SEPTEMBER 5 CRITICIZING MILITARY GOVERNOR OF MADEIRA, BRIG. GEN. CARLOS AZEREDO, FOR HAVING ORDERED RELEASE OF THE PERSONS ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF HAVING PLANTED BOMBS. AZEREDO, LABELLED "SPINOLISTA" BY UPM, WAS ALSO ACCUSED OF HAVING TOLD SEPTEMBER 2 ARMY AFM ASSEMBLY THAT, UNLESS POLITICAL CRISIS ON CONTINENT RESOLVED TO SATISFACTION OF MADEIRAN SOCIO-ECONOMIC ELITE, ARCHIPELAGO WOULD DECLARE INDEPENDENCE.

-- MILITARY COMMAND'S EFFORTS TO HALT RASH OF SEPARATIST BOMBINGS BY SENDING OUT SMALL PATROLS SPARKED BBC WEEKEND REPORT THAT COUP HAD TAKEN PLACE. REPORTS WERE IMMEDIATELY DENIED BY COMMAND.

-- ON PORTO SANTO, SEPARATIST CROWD FORCED THE DEPARTURE FROM THE ISLAND OF CONTINENTAL "PROGRESSIVE" TEACHER.

2. COMMENT: LISBON PRESS COVERAGE OF SITUATION IN MADEIRA HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE, FAR HEAVIER, IN FACT, THAN ITS TREATMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN AZORES. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ON MADEIRAN INDEPENDENCE APPEAR SEVERAL TIMES PER WEEK AND MAJOR NEWS MAGAZINE, SEculo ILLUSTRADO PRODUCED FOUR PAGE FEATURE ON FLAMA FOR SEPTEMBER 9 ISSUE. COVERAGE IS GENERALLY FACTUAL, WITH EMPHASIS ON ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC ROOTS OF SEPARATISM AND EDITORIAL COMMENT DIRECTED TOWARD NEED FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ACTION TO NEUTRALIZE PROBLEM. CONSISTENTLY COMMUNIST-LINING PUBLICATIONS SUCH AS "O SEculo," HOWEVER, OCCASIONALLY TIE USG TO SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES.

3. CONTINUING VIOLENCE IN MADEIRA AND RECURRING COUP REMORS ARE INDICATIONS OF TENSE CLIMATE PREVAILING THERE AS RESULT OF RISE IN SEPARATIST ACTIVITY.

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